



U.S. Department of Justice
United States Attorney
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NEWS RELEASE

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LORENZO, CALIFORNIA, MAN CHARGED WITH CONSPIRACY TO POSSESS WITH THE INTENT TO DISTRIBUTE MARIJUANA

KANSAS CITY, Kan. – United States Attorney Eric Melgren announced today that **Edgar Illescas, 35**, Lorenzo, California, was charged on August 30, 2004, with one count of conspiracy to distribute and possession with the intent to distribute more than one hundred kilograms (more than 220 pounds) of marijuana.

Melgren said that Illescas was arrested on August 2, 2004, by the Douglas County Drug Enforcement Unit. Illescas is now in federal custody and will make his initial appearance today, August 31, 2004, in U.S. District Court in Kansas City, Kansas, at 2:30 p.m.

A complaint filed with the Court alleges that from April 1, 2004, through August 2, 2004, Illescas conspired with others to distribute and possess with the intent to distribute more than 100 kilograms (more than 220 pounds) of marijuana. The complaint alleges that on July 29, 2004, an officer with the Nashville, Tennessee Police Department received a call from a trucking company about a suspicious bill of lading and several suspicious boxes. The complaint alleges that a manager of the trucking company inspected one of the boxes and discovered taped bricks that he believed contained illegal drugs. The officer with the Nashville, Tennessee Police Department opened one of these bricks and found marijuana. The complaint alleges that the officer estimated that the shipment contained approximately 200 pounds of marijuana. The complaint alleges that the boxes were being shipped to a trucking company in Lawrence, Kansas, and the bill of lading directed the recipient to notify “M. Carbajal” and provided a telephone number. The complaint alleges that on July 30, 2004, the boxes were delivered to a deputy with the Douglas County Sheriff’s Office assigned to the Douglas County Drug Enforcement Unit for an attempted delivery. The complaint alleges that on August 2, 2004, the deputy took the boxes to the trucking company in Lawrence, Kansas, to attempt a controlled delivery to “M. Carbajal”. The complaint alleges that on August 2, 2004, an individual who identified himself as Michael Carbajal arrived at the

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trucking company, contacted the manager, and requested the shipment. The complaint further alleges that the individual signed for the shipment and the six boxes were loaded into a rented vehicle. The complaint alleges that the individual who identified himself as Michael Carbajal, but subsequently acknowledged that he is Edgar Illescas, was immediately arrested by officers with the Lawrence Police Department and the Douglas County Drug Enforcement Unit and the marijuana was seized.

If convicted, Illescas face a minimum of five years and a maximum of forty years in federal prison without parole.

The case was investigated by the Douglas County Drug Enforcement Unit and the Nashville, Tennessee Police Department and is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Scott Rask with the assistance of the Douglas County District Attorney's Office.

As in any criminal case, a person is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty. The charges filed merely contain allegations of criminal conduct.